

19

L'Estrange's  
C A S E  
In a CIVIL  
DIALOGUE

Betwixt

'Z E K I E L

A N D

E P H R A I M.

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L O N D O N,

Printed for *H. Brome* at the Signe of the *Gun*  
in *S. Pauls Church-yard*. 1680.

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## ZEKIEL &amp; EPHRAIM. &amp;c.

L'Estrange at a Window above.

Zekiel. **W**Hy I tell thee, *Ephraim*, I heard it with my own Ears, and it was a Man in *Black* too, that said it.

*Eph.* In *Black*, do ye say? 'Twas no *Divine* I hope.

*Zek.* No, no; He was too *Fierce*, and *Fiery*, for a *Divine*: By his laying about him so, and his *Bug-Words*, a Man would rather have taken him for a *Conjuror*. But yet he seems to be a very *Good man*, in *His Way*.

*Eph.* There's a *Doctor* of *Physick* or two, that I know, that are very *Honest*, *Zealous Men*: Might it not be One of Them?

*Zek.* No, no; This Man does not look like a *Doctor* of *anything*: I should rather take him for some body toward the *Law*.

*Eph.* Pre'thee describe him a little. Has he not a *Big, deep Voyce*?

*Zek.* Yes; and a hoarse kind of wheafing with it, like the *Ciphring* of an *Organ-Pipe* that has got a *Flaw*.

*Eph.* And thou find'st him a Man of parts too; dost not?

*Zek.* Oh: A Devillish Fellow. Well *Ephraim*: 'Tis a strange thing, how one may be deceived in a bodies *Out side*. I should not have thought by the semblance of *This* man, that he could have said *Bo* to a *Goose*.

*Eph.* We are Both upon the same Person *Zekiel*, only he spoke the *same things*, in the *Morning* at the *Amsterdam Coffee House*, and in the *After-noon* at *Richards*.

*Zek.* He has an odd kind of *Lift* methinks with his *Upper Lip*, like the *Snuffling* of a *Stone-horse* at a *Mare*.

*Eph.* I have observ'd something of a *Convulsion* in that Part. But what-like *Face* had he, I *Pre'thee*?

*Zek.* Did'st thou ever take notice of a *Vizor*, with a kind of *Liver-colour Vernish* yonder, at a *Glasse Shop* by *Exeter Change*? The *Mouth*, (if you mark it) is cut a little higher then *Ordinary*.

*Eph.* Now thou mind'st me of it, 'Tis the very *Pi-cture* of this *Worthy Gentleman*. The *Nose* on't I remember, looks as if it had been drawn on with a *Shoo-ing-Horn*.

*Zek.* But then take the *Gentlenesse* of his *Manners*, the *Graces* of his *Mind*; the *Sweetnesse* of his *Motions*, and *Addresse*: Really take him altogether, and the *Man* is a *Man*, every *Inch* of him.

*Eph.* 'Tis very true *Zekiel*: for the *Man* is *Tall*, and *Slender*; and every thing that he *says*, or *does*, comes from him with so *Pretty* an *Obliging Ayre*. But let us come now to the *Point*: What did he say?

*Zek.*



*Zek.* He said flat and Plain, that *Crack-fart* was a *Conspirator*; up to the Ears in Young *Tongs Sham-Plot*; and that a *Pillory* was too good for him.

*Eph.* Why This is no more then the Common Talk of all the *Coffee-Houses* about the Town.

*Zek.* And let me tell thee as a Secret, *Ephraim*, the same People carry'd the same *Humour* about the Town, as well as the same *Words*. There's a *short, Trub, fat, Fellow*, in a *white Perrywig*, (his Father, as I take it, was a *Commitee man*.) There happen'd one of *L'Estrange* his Pamphlets to ly in his way, and you might see his Indignation come up his Gullet, as plainly, as if a *Snake* were fetching up a *Toad* again. Thou canst not think how I dote upon this Honest man, for his Affection to our Interest.

*Eph.* There's another, that they call the *Coffee Draper*: upon my credit, he lays it onto some Tune too. I heard him speak *bloody words* t'other day; and he was as well *seconded* by one that is lately come over from the Profession of an *Hypocrite* to the *Practise* of it, who is an excellent Man too in his Generation.

*Zek.* Prethee *Ephraim* let's have no more *Riddles*. Thou mean'st the *Hypocrite*, I suppose, according to the *Letter*.

*Eph.* But what do ye think then of the *Poetical Joyner*? He that Rhim'd so plaguily upon the *Fudges* and the *Juries*, about *Gascoyn*, and *Wakeman*?

*Zek.* Ay, now you speak of a Man indeed: If you had but heard him, how he whipp'd up two or  
Three

three Blades t'other day, of the *Arbitrary way*, upon the War of *Forty One*, you'd have said he had been a *Teazer*, indeed. He told them to their very Noses, that the Parliament-men of those days were the bravest *Patriots* that ever *England* bred; that they fought for the *Liberty* of the *Subject*; and in one word exalted them to the skyes.

*Eph.* Come, come; Let it suffice, that *Dr. Oates* was There himself, and a great many Worthy Persons besides; And no Room for any other Discourse then *L'Estrange* and *Tong*, *Celiers* and *L'Estrange*.

*Zek.* Why Really to give him his Due, the *Doctor* seem'd to be much for *Moderation*: One was downright for the *Gallows*: Another would have brought it down to *Pebbles*, and *Rotten Eggs*; But the *Doctor* himself, being more inclin'd to *Mercy*, was willing to content himself with a *Touch* at the *Carts Arse*.

*Eph.* Prethee *Zekiel* let us keep close to the Subject, now we are upon it: for some way or other, This Varlet must be Confounded.

*Zek.* Nay, That's a thing absolutely Resolved, *Ephraim*; and there are more ways to the Wood than One. Let us try First, how far we can carry it upon the Reputation of *Tongs Plot*.

*Eph.* Very Good; and if That will not reach him, we must set our Wits to work some other way.

*Zek.* Why you see how all the *Coffee-houses* take fire at it already.

*Eph.*



*Eph.* Ay ; and all the *News-Mongers* too ; and consequently the whole *Kingdome*.

*Zek.* And then it goes down with the People, without so much as *Gulping*. Nay ; It has Stagger'd, I know not how many, of his *Best Friends*. How many *Fools*, and *Coxcombs* have I heard him call'd, even by *his own Party* ; since we put *This Hare afoot*. Not so few as a Hundred people came to *Harry Brooms* in One day, to see what was become of him, and in what *Goal* to find him.

*Eph.* Nay (as we order'd the matter ) his *Charge*, *Examination*, and *Committment*, were all over the Nation, before either the *Counsell*, or *Himself*, had heard one *Syllable* of the *Story*.

*Zek.* It must not be deny'd, but that the *Design* was well *layd* ; and *carry'd on* too, with as much *Skill*, and *Industry*, as was possible.

*Eph.* If you speak of the *Original design* ; the *Snare* for *L'Estrange* was as well contriv'd as Heart could wish it. For nothing could be more *Plausible*, then the Means that *Tong* used by a *Second-hand*, for the drawing of him into the *Toyle*. You know what I mean.

*Zek.* Yes yes ; *Tong* propounded that *L'Estrange* might be call'd in, to his Assistance, as a fit person to direct him in This Affayr. But This poynt *Ephraim* was not followed so close as it might have been. And then there was too much Noise made on't beforehand. Now there's no thought of compassing such a business as This, when it has once taken *Vent*.

*Eph.*

*Eph.* To say the Truth, *Zekiel*, we were a little out in our Measures, at Both Ends. *First*, we let it run too long, without any sort of *Personal Application* to *L'Estrange*. *Secondly*, we struck too soon at *Last*. For who knows, but that with *Art*, and a little longer *Patience* he might have been prevail'd upon, in the End, to have *Pouch'd* the *Bayt*?

*Zek.* 'Tis but so much *Time* and *Breath* cast away, to stand talking of matters that are gone and Past: But since *Tongs Commitment*, and the bringing of things to a *Forc'd Put*; I have set as hard upon *L'Estrange's Skirts*, as another.

*Eph.* And if you go to *That* (*Zekiel*) there are *Others* that have done their *Parts* (I believe) too, as well as *You*: And Pray'e (if a body may ask you) what mighty busineses have *You* to boast of, in This Affair, more then your *Fellows*?

*Zek.* Nay since you provoke me *Ephraim*. I am not Affraid to dispute Services with you, provided that it breed no *Ill blond* betwixt us; For *Competitions* are many times the Ruine, even of the most *Generous Undertakings*.

*Eph.* These are not so properly *Competitions*, *Zekiel*, as *Virtuous Emulations*, when *Brethren* strive only to Exceed one another in *Goodnesse*. Wherefore I Prethee let us vye the good Offices we have render'd the *Publick*, in This Instance, with that *Calmnesse*, and *Moderation* that may become persons of *Our Character*, and *Profession*.

*Zek.*



*Zek.* Thou hast spoken with the Lips of an *Angell*,  
*Ephraim.* And beside the *Duty* of our *Agreement*, if  
 there were nothing in it but *Humane Policy*, it would  
 concern us to *bear up in Unity*, against the *Common E-*  
*nemy*, and leave the *Unhappy Differences* that we find  
 among *ourselves*, to be *Adjusted at Leisure*. But now  
 to your *Friendly Challenge*, *Ephraim*. See *Honest John*  
*Gays News-Letter* of *Octob. 2. 1680*. At the *Flying*  
*Horse in Fleetstreet*, and you will find This Passage  
 following.

*A Person* (says he) *having visited Mr. Tonge in*  
*Newgate*, *Mr. Tonge deliver'd him a Paper*, Contai-  
*ning a Discovery of the whole Contrivance* against *Dr.*  
*Oates* ; *in which is mentioned that Mr. L'Estrange is*  
*concerned in it* ; *and that upon Notice of its being likely*  
*to be Discover'd*, *Mr. L'Estrange sent a Letter to Mr.*  
*Tonge*, *to Remove all the Papers out of his Lodgings*,  
*to Mr. Ely's. &c.*

Now if This was not a *Considerable Service*, the  
 sending of *This Person* to *Newgate* ; and the *Publishing* of  
*This Report*, which was the *Foundation* of All the Fol-  
 lowing *Aspersions* upon *L'Estrange* : I am no *Master of my*  
*Trade*.

*Eph.* Your *Will* was *Good* no doubt on't, *Zekiel* ;  
 And so was your *Design* : you made use of *Proper In-*  
*struments* too, and gave *Birth* to a very *Serviceable Ru-*  
*mour* : But what needed you have given that *Blind*  
*Intimation* of a *Quidam* : a certain *Nameless Person* that  
 first broch'd the *Story* ? It makes it look like a *Practice* ;  
 whereas one *bold Touch* to have made it a *discovery* up-  
 on an *Examination* from *Above*, would have *hit the*  
*Bird in the Eye*. And then *L'Estranges Letter to Tong*,  
 and the *Removal* of his *Papers* to *Mr. Elys*, ( to be plain  
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with ye *Zekiel*) was e'en a *Silly Invention*: for any man might foresee, that once in *Eight and Forty Hours*, the *Abuse* would be *detected*; (as effectually it was.) And if the people had not been very kind to us, the *Manifest Falsity* of Those *Particulars*, might have *hazarded* the *Credit* of all the *Rest*.

*Zek.* This was *Gays* fault, and not *Mine*: for That Piece was intended only for a *Country Intelligence*, and he like a *Coxcomb*, goes and disperses it here in the *Town*.

But what do ye think now of *My device*, that was Clapt in upon the Back of *Prance* his *Narative*, by way of *Post-script*? You have seen't I'm sure; 'Twas Printed for *Langly Curtis* upon *Lud-Gate Hill*: and came out *October. 1<sup>st</sup>*. The man you must know, is as True as *Steel*, where he takes; and a *pretty Fellow* enough, if he would but leave a foolish Trick he has taken up, of winding up his *Nose*, and shewing his *Teeth* at every turn, like a *Whelp* that has got a *Bee* in's Ear. *Your Intelligence* I can assure ye, had been run to dirt; if *This Paper* had not Stept in, to *Relieve* ye.

*Mrs. Cellier*, (says he) mentioning the said *Mr. Le-strange* very familiarly; and pretending then to send her *Imps*, *Grange*, and Sing up and down to him; tho' for all her *vain boasting*, it cannot (I think) be imagin'd, that so worthy a Gentleman and so much a Protestant as he has shown himself by his late *Learned Pamphlets*; and one that is, (as I am told) a *Justice of the Peace*, would have any Correspondence with such a notorious *Popish Baggage*, &c.

Here's



Here's a Spark now that would passe the *Ordeal*, and never say, *God save the King for't*. For when he has fairly hinted a *familiarity* betwixt *L'Estrange* and *Celiers*, and a *Correspondence* entertain'd betwixt them, even to the *naming* of the very *Mercuries* that convey'd the *Intelligence*; you will finde in the *Context*, that it is all delivered only as a *Credible Hearsay*; and to tell you as a Friend, the Small Officer you wot of, had a great hand in the Advice; And then so soon as ever he had *Bespatter'd* him with *Calumnies*, hardly ever to be *repaired*, do but see how delicately the Rogue makes it *worse and worse* by pretending to Lick him Clean again.

*Eph.* But how comes *Curtis* to have such an Interest thereabouts?

*Zek.* There's a Mystery in That, my Friend *Ephraim*. First, upon an Order for a Prosecution at Law, there is a way of either falling short in the *Evidence*, and so bringing the matter off *That way*; or else of *suppressing* those Articles that would have done the business, or in some cases not bringing the question on at all. Secondly, There is one that does not stick publickly to declare, that he will not meddle with hindring any *Libells* against *L'Estrange*: and so we have as good as a *Protection* in that *Assurance*. And then (under the Rose) There may be now and then certain *Feelings* in the Cause, and *Connivings*, in which Case it will be dangerous to *disoblige* us, for fear of telling *Tales*.

*Eph.* Well, but you are gone from your Text. Where's the *Mighty Service*, I beseech ye, that you have done your Party by This *Pamphlet*?

*Zek.* Or rather, Where are your *Eyes, Ephraim*, that cannot discern it, without *pointing* to't? did not you find the *Operation* of *This Paper*, Immediately upon the *Publisking* it? and that whereas *L'Estrange* was only mention'd before, as a setter on of *Tong* against the *Two Doctors* without any other *Confederate*; It came now to the *Cry* of the Town, that *Celliers* and *L'Estrange* went on hand in hand with the *Conspiracy*: and in such a manner too, that *L'Estrange* had hardly any way left him to purge himself, but the *Testimony* of *Celliers*, who was not to be believ'd. There's nothing sticks closer to *L'Estrange*, then *this Intimation*: and yet it has started another *Bugg* too, which is that he is a *Papist*, as well as a *Plotter*; and That perswasion I promise you goes a great way. Nay Ile tell ye a word more too, but in *Confidence*. I heard a Gentleman undertake the other night to prove him one; and This is a man that speaks him as fair to his Face to, as any man Living, which carrys the greater Credit.

*Eph.* But do you believe, *Zekiel*, that *L'Estrange* holds any *Correspondence* with *Celliers*, or not?

*Zek.* I do not believe that ever he exchange'd any message with her, or ever so much as saw the Eyes of her in his whole Life. This is a thing I would not say to every Body, but I know to whom I speak it.

*Eph.* You must know *Zekiel* that I did not only start the first *General Report* of *L'Estranges* being in *Tongs Plot*, but I fixed the *Particular Article*; and layd it; for *Tampering* with *Tong*, to Renounce the *Retraction* he made to his *Unkle*, of his former *Enformation*.

*Zek.*



*Zek.* That might passe well enough to serve a *present Turn*, but at the long Run, you could never expect that it would hold water, for at the time of *Tongs Renouncing That Retractation*, *L'Estrange* had not as yet ever seen the face of *Tong*. To deale frankly with ye, I do not approve the laying of so much stresse neither, upon *Tongs Testimony*. First, he advances an *Enformation*; and at the same time, gives us a *Counterpart* of it, which according to our *Principles* was fairly done. Secondly, he *Retracts That Information*; and Thirdly, denys, upon his *Salvation* that ever he *retracted* it, and Swears it to have been his own Spontaneous Act, with *Three Wittnesses* to Assert That *Disclaimer*. Now This is so *Notorious* a forfeiture of his *Credit*, that I should be very loth to Venture the *Pinch* of the *Question* upon his *Evidence*. So that I am still blowing up the Clamour of *L'Estrange* and *Celiars* and the *Jelousy* of *L'Estranges* being a *Papist*. And I'll tell ye what, beside; I have push'd it forward, that the Duke of *York* sent *Tong* a *Hundred Guinnyes* by *L'Estrange*, for an Encouragement. And This works in the peoples heads, like *Bottle Ale*.

*Eph.* That it does upon my word *Zekiel*: for I was rounded in the ear but yesterday, that *Prance* had *Ten Wittnesses* in Readiness, to prove that *L'Estrange* had been *Forty times* at *Masse* here; & Solemnly Worshiping according to the Profession of the *Romish Communion*. And I was told by another at the same time, that *L'Estrange* was run quite away, and a Sum of money offer'd to any man that should bring him back again.

*Zek.* This Play of Fast and Loose may do well enough, so long as the Truth is kept out of sight: But you see, since *L'Estrange's* appearing at the Councell, that the businesse of *Tonge* is in a manner blown over,  
and

and that we are put to our shifts for Other Pretences, to uphold the Controversy. So that if it were not for *My story of Celliers*, and the Common Theme of *Popery*, and *Popishly Affected*, I do not know but we might e'en shut up our shops, and let fall the Question.

*Eph.* I know very well how matters pass'd upon *L'Estrange's* Examination; and all things consider'd, I am of Opinion that *John Gay* has done *his part* again, to help us out at a dead Lift, in his paper of Intelligence. *Octo.* 7.

Yesterday (*says he*) *Mrs. Cellier*, *Mr. L'Estrange*, *Mr. Choqueux*, Captain *Ely*, *Mr. Tonge*, his *Father*, and *Dr. Oates*, had a Hearing before the Council; where several material things were discovered; and many Words past betwixt *Dr. Oates*, and *Mr. L'Estrange*; The Council upon *Dr. Oates* desiring *L'Estrange* might be committed, Order'd *Dr. Oates* to bring a *Bill* against him, and if it was found, he should be Secur'd. And *L'Estrange* own'd that *Mr. Tonge* had been with him, but did not communicate any of his Plot to him. The further Hearing of *Him* and *Mrs Cellier* is adjourn'd till *Friday*.

*Zek.*



*Zek.* What dost thou mean *Ephraim*, to encourage such a *Flam* as This? There are twice as many known Falshoods in it as there are Lines: And they are so Palpable too, that there is hardly any man of business, but is able to Contradict them: Nor is there one Syl- lable in it to the Purpose, but where *L'Estrange* and *Cellier* are coupled together. He says nothing at all here of *L'Estrange's* being snapt up at the Councell for his *Sawcynesse*, and the Moan he made to their Lord- ships for *Dr. Oates's* making so bold with one of the *Kings Justices*; and the Drs. telling him that he would prove him a *Rogue*, by the Best in the Land: and of the Cause being only put off, in order to the Drs. bringing of further Evidence. Now since *Mr. Gay* was so bent upon it, to strain a point of *Candour*, and *Integrity*; methinks he should have had the Brains to have made a better Choice of the *Lyes* he intended to publish; espe- cially when the *One* was every jot as *True*, and as *Cheap* as the *Other*.

*Eph.* Pray'e tell me what Exception you have, now, to the Paper of honest *Mr. Hill*? (that of a *Strong- Water-man* is now become an *Intelligencer*.) It bears Date, *Octo. 7.*

Yesterday (*says he*) *Mr. Justice Bridgman* and *Dr. Oates* appear'd at the Councell-board, where he deliver'd the Confession of young *Tonge*, which he made in *Newgate*, whereby he accused *Mr. L'Estrange*, and one *Choqueux* to be *Conspirators* with him in the Plot, against his *Father*, and *Dr. Oates*. Very high Words pass'd between *Dr. Oates*, and *Mr. L'Estrange*; the

the Latter telling the Councell that Dr. Oates took the Liberty to call him a Thousand times *Rogue*, and *Rascall*; which the Dr. owned, saying *he would prove him to be Both*, and desir'd he might be Secur'd: Whereupon the Councell Order'd the Dr. to prefer a *Bill* against him; and if it were found, promised that he should either be Secur'd, or give sufficient *Bayle*. Upon Examination, L'Estrange owned that *Young Tonge* had been with him; and at the same time told him he had something to discover but he knew not what it was.

*Zek.* This piece of Intelligence, *Ephraim*, is like *Chip in Porridge*, it does neither good, nor hurt; only it keeps the Wheel a going. And yet the leaving out of *Cellier* (let me tell ye) is the want of a *Principal Verb*. It was not well, to put in the Doctors calling *L'Estrange*, *Rogue*, and *Rascall*; unlesse it had been accompany'd with some *Intolerable Provocation*; for fear it might be look upon as an Irreverence toward the Board. The Dr. they say, made often mention of the Parliament; which the *News-Letters* do well not to take notice of, upon matter of *Discretion* as well as *Respect*. Upon the whole matter, I observe This *Decorum* in all these Papers, that in the Main they have the Wit to hold mostly in a Tale. The most *Positive* and *Concise* of the whole Tribe is little *Hancock*. *October. 7th.*

The



The Papers of *young Tong's Sham-Plot* being seiz'd, Mr. *L'Estrange*, and Mrs. *Cellier* were Summon'd ; but they deny'd they knew any thing of it ; but Mrs. *Cellier* would not stand to it, by reason of the many Bruises she received on the *Pillory* : But next *Wednesday*, Mr. *Tonge* will be brought to Confront them, face to face.

*Eph.* These Papers of *Young Tong's*, I must confess I never heard of. But I am fully Convinc'd of the benefit of Coupling *L'Estrange* with *Celliers*.

*L'Estrange.* Pray'e my Masters will you give me Leave now to put in a word, in my own Case ; And you shall have the Naked Truth of it, as if I were upon my Last Confession.

*Eph.* 'Tis an Old saying, that *Listeners seldom hear well of themselves* ; but it is as True again, in another Case, that *he that makes a Conscience of his ways, needs never fear being surpriz'd*.

*L'E.* With what face can you pretend to appeal to the integrity of your own Souls ; when you are not more convinc'd of the difference betwixt *Truth* and *Falshood*, then you are *Conscious* to your selves, of a *Malicious Conspiracy* against an *Innocent Person*, in *This Practice* ? For your *Calumnies* are all Supported by *Confederacy*, and *Inconsistent* with *Themselves*. The *Pretended Foundation* of your *Outrage* against me, is, for *Abetting a Subornation* against the *Kings Witnesses* : And when you finde that upon *That Ground*

C

you

you cannot sustain your *Charge* ; I am to be made a *Papist*. When *That Calumny* fails you too, my *Writings* are to be pickt, and sifted ; and an *Inquisition* to passe upon my *Papers*. So that your business is not to punish any *Open Faults* in me but to hunt for *secret ones*, and to revenge your selves upon my *Person*, because I have layd my *Offences* out of your *Sight*.

*Zek.* You should do better to value your self upon the simplicity of your manners, then upon a flourish of Words and Phrases : And since you are so forward to offer your self to a Defence ; Pray'e will you speak to such Points concerning this business of *Tong* as you judg may be sufficient for your *Vindication*.

*L'Estrange.* It is most Unwillingly that I enter upon This Subject ; and for many Reasons. *First*, as my Case must necessarily take in some matters that fall under the Cognizance of his Majesties most Honourable *Privy Councell*. *Secondly*, As I am no Friend to the Circumstances of almost *All Vindications* ; being still accompany'd more or less with *Vanity*, and *Clamour*. *Thirdly* ; It is an Argument of great *Weakness* and *Ill manners*, for me to impose upon the World ; and to expect that the Sun should stand still in the Firmament, to attend my Little Story. And truly, in This Outrageous Liberty of the Press, I should be no more mov'd at a *Personal Libell*, than at a *Pug* upon the *Thames*, for calling me the *Son of a Whore* ; or at a *Privileg'd Fool*, upon the *Land*, for making as many Sorts of *Rascals* of me as ever were created out of the Four and Twenty Letters. For *Course Language* is the *Dialect* of *Courser Natures*. I never met with any man that was angry with a *Frogg* for *Croaking* : and every one knows that it is as *natural* for a *Puppy* to *Bark*, as to *Breath*. But yet under  
favour



favour, when This *Popular Venom* comes to Resolve into a *Crime of State*; and that the *Honour* of a *Family*; the *Life, Freedome,* and *Reputation* of a *Loyal Subject*, and an *Honest man*, comes to be the *Issue* of the *Question*; I have no other Choyce before me, but either to *Sink* under the *Infamy* of a *Fool*, and a *Traytor*, ( which is the Character that the Little *Scribbling Hirelings* of this *Town* have bestow'd upon me ) or else to Redeem my self by a *Clear, and Open Defence*: Wherein I shall endeavour to govern my self with a due Reverence both to *Authority*, and *Truth*.

*Eph.* Pray'e Speak, in the first place, to the matter of your *Examination*.

*L'E.* Upon *Wednesday* the *6th* of this *Instant Oct.* I attended the *Councill*; where *Mr. Oates*, being present, referr'd himself, ( as to any *Charge* against me ) to *Young Tongs Affidavit*.

The *Affidavit* being read ; I spake, with Leave of the Board, to those Parts of it that seem'd to affect me ; And, as I then promised, so I delivered a Just, and punctual Account, upon the whole matter in question : which was to This following effect.

*Mr. Thomas Newcomb* of the *Savoy*, did, at my Instance, desire *Mr. Choqueux* ( his near Neighbour there, ) that he would appoint me some time to discourse with him at his own House concerning several *Historical Passages* of the *Late War*, whereof ( as I was enform'd ) he had reserv'd diverse *Memorials* ; He set the Time, and I went to him accordingly, telling him in Generall terms my businesse : But company being There, and just setting down to a *Collation*, it was too

late to enter upon the Discourse after Supper, and so we referr'd it to another time.

Upon my next Visit, a maid directed me into a low Room, where there were two young men ; ( both Strangers to me : ) Mr. *Choqueux* coming down Immediately, saluted me, and made *Young Tonge* ( who, it seems, was One of them ) and myself known to each other. Mr. *Tonge* ( said I ) *I have been sometimes at your Fathers Lodgings in White-Hall : did I ever see You There ?* No Sir, says he, I never saw you before in my Life ; but I have often heard my Father speak of You. Yes ( says Mr. *Choqueux* ) *for refusing to License his Royal Martyr ; which he took very Ill at your hands.* There were several dangerous Passages in it ( said I ) that I durst not meddle with. Ay Sir, says *Young Tonge*, *so there were :* And upon That, he took an Occasion to tell me some *Generall Stories* of his Father, and Mr. Oates : That they had had *many Privacies* together ; but without naming any Particulars of *businessse*. And Then he told of one *Green* ( a *Weaver* ) that seeing his Father looking about him in the *Court of Requests*, ( as I remember ) askt him *what News ?* Dr. *Tonge* replying, that he heard none : *Green* made answer that he would tell Him some ; and that there would sodainly be a *Papish Massacre*. After which ( says young *Tonge* ) *my Father made an Acquaintance with him ; and not long after, follow'd the Plot.* Some other wild Discourses he made ; but all of them so Extravagant, and Incoherent, that I cut him off as fairly as with Civility I could, by *Pishing* at all he had said, and telling him, in plain terms, that it signify'd just nothing.

Upon shewing this Dislike, *Tonge* whisper'd to Mr. *Choqueux*, who told me presently, that if I had any  
Writing-



*Writing work*, Mr. *Tonge* would *Transcribe* any thing for me with all his heart. Mr. *Choqueux* also recommending *Tonge* to me, as one that had a great esteem for me. I told him that I had no business of That kinde, and that I should be ready to Oblige Mr. *Tong*: And so we sat together over a glasse of Wine, without one syllable more of business, more then that I desir'd Mr. *Choqueux* to remember me for what Notes he had of the late Warre; the which he said he would, but that his Papers were most of them at *Paris*.

As I was going to take leave, M. *Tonge* desir'd that he might wait upon me at my House; and propounded such or such a time: So that I agreed at last to the time of his own choosing: But so little satisfy'd was I with this kinde of Entertainment, that I slipt out of the way, and so he lost his labour. But the next morning, Mr. *Choqueux* brought me a Letter from him, desiring me that in regard he mist of me last night, I would appoint him another time, for *he had something to say to me*.

Upon reading of His Letter, ( which I shew'd to the Bearer of it ) Mr. *Choqueux* ( said I ) *he that has to do with these Fellows, Must be as wary as if he were upon the High Rope: a slip is as much as a man's Neck's worth: If you do but misplace One word, hee'l be your Ruine. But I'll write him an Answer however; which in effect was This. I'm sorry that I mist you last night, but if you have anything to say to me, I shall be at home at 7. in the Evening.* Truly ( *Sir* ) says Mr. *Choqueux* I believe young *Tonge* to have no sort of Guile in him; but however, he can do me no hurt, for I have nothing to do with him, but in relation to his Health.

About

About 7. in the Evening, came Mr. Choqueux, Mr. Tonge, and two more, ( who are meer Strangers to me ): Mr. Choqueux telling me, that Mr. Tonge had desir'd him to bring him to me, and that he had something to acquaint me with. Sir ( said I ) *This businessse has an Ill face : I will not meddle in any thing looks so like a Consultation.* So the two strangers departed, leaving the Other two behind; Sr. ( says Mr. Choqueux ) *Mr Tong has deliver'd some Enformations already; and he has an Enformation to offer to your self, as a Justice of Peace.* Gentlemen ( Sayd I ) if it be an Enformation ready Drawn, and in your own hand, Mr. Tong; so as to need no alteration; if you please to Insert a clause in't for my Security, wherein you shall declare, that it is your own voluntary Act, and without any Argument, or Inducement, from me to move you to't, let me see the Information, and if I find it a matter fit for me to meddle in, I'll Swear you to't; but otherwise I can do nothing in it. Mr. Tong making Answer, that he had nothing ready drawn; Mr. Choqueux went his way, and Tong Stayd I think about a Quarter of an hour after at most, after him; telling over the same Stuff again, that I was so Sick of at the Savoy. I was so far from Pumping him for matter to work upon, or making any Improvement, or Collections from what he sayd, that I quitted the Table where he sat, and walkt about the Room; which made him change his Discourse, to talk of some little Foolish Things that I had written; which in good manners I gave him, and so he departed. After which time I never receiv'd either Note, or Message from him.



*Zek.* But did not *Dr. Oates* charge you for concealing a *Conspiracy*, contrary to your *Duty*, as a *Magistrate*? And did he not Appeal to the Board, whether or no you had rendred any account to their Lordships of That *Conspiracy*?

*L'Est.* He did so: And my Answer Then was, that it would be a strange boldnesse, and Impertinence to trouble their Lordships with every ridiculous Story that I heard, and a more ridiculous then This I never met withall, under so Grave a Pretense.

I do now answer further, that as I was not at all *Inquisitive* into the *Particulars*, so the matter in Generall of what I heard, was, in the very quality of it, so *Insignificant* and *Trivial*; that bating the Charge, and Trouble of *Fees* and *Attendance*, I would have stood the shock of the Issue of such a Charge, for a single Half-Crown, even admitting that every Article of it could have been prov'd against me. So that, as I said upon my Examination, I do not account it worth my while to disguise, or evade any one Circumstance in This matter, being wholly Intent upon the discharge of my Conscience, in this affair, with a respect to *Modesty*, *Truth*, and *Duty*. Beside, that on the other hand I have a natural abhorrence for the Office of a *Setter*, or a *Trepanner*: And it is the *Last Lawfull Service* in this world, that I would render even to my *Prince* and *Countrey*.

*Zek.*

*Zek.* These are but Words still: But since you have gone thus far of your own accord, pray'e go a little further for my sake. Did you neither *Tamper* with *young Tonge*, *Originally*, nor *advise* him *afterward* to *disclaim* his *Retraction* to his *Uncle*, of his *former Informations*.

*L'Estrange.* No: I do aver it, upon my Hopes of Heaven, that I never saw the Eyes of *Young Tonge* (to my knowledge) till after that disclaiming of his *Retraction*. And so far was I from laying any stresse upon what I believe *Tonge* suggested, that I would have stood in *Mr. Oates* his Place for *Three half-pence*, if it could have been proved against Me.

*Zek.* You never had any thing to do neither with *Mrs. Celliers*, for the carrying on of This Contrivance against the *Doctors*, had ye?

*L'Estr.* Upon the word of a *Christian*, I do not so much as know the Woman: and I do verily believe that I never saw her Face. Nor had I ever any thing to do with her, either directly or Indirectly in my whole Life: Nor did I hear so much as her *Name* mention'd upon my Examination.

*Eph.* Pray let *me* put you a Question now. Did you never deliver *Tong* a *hundred Guyneys* by order from the Duke of *York*? Or do not you, either *know*, or *believe*, that he had *That*, or *some other Sum* given him, or some *Reward*, promis'd him, for the Carrying on of This Affayr? and by *Whom*?

*L'Estr.*



*L'Estr.* No, by all that is Sacred, I do neither *Know* nor *Believe* that any Sum of *Money*, or any Reward, was either *Given*, or *Promised* to *Tonge* by his *Royal Highness*, or his *Order*; nor do I know of any *Money* given him, or any *Reward Promised* him, in consideration of his appearing as an *Evidence*, by any Person whatsoever. Neither did I ever touch a Penny of the Duke's Money in my Life, either for my *own*, or for the Use of any *other* Person. But as to any *Gratification* to him, or the *Hopes* of it, in case he could draw me into the Snare, I can say nothing to That. But by his Proposing of *me* beforehand, for his *Assistant* (being, as then, wholly *unknown* to him) and by the Sequel of his *Addresses* and *Applications*, it doth manifestly appear, that the entrapping of *L'Estrange* was one part of his Design.

But you say nothing all this while of a *Conspiracy* on the *other side*; and an endeavour to set up the whole Nation in Evidence against *me*. For what is it less, the dispersing of so many hundreds of Papers every Week, all over the Kingdom, stuffed with the *basest* and *falsest Scandals* against me imaginable; *belying* the very *Orders* and *Proceedings* of the *Council*; and *misrepresenting* Matters of *State*: And this is the Trade of a Pack of *Mercenary Scriblers* that are (probably) kept in *Pay* to a *Faction*.

*Eph.* You have the Wit, I perceive, to tell us nothing to your Disadvantage: Pray'e were not you taken up for being a little too Malapert, when Dr. Oates laid you so open before the *Council*?

*L'Estr.*

*L'Estr.* Not one Jot I do assure ye Gentlemen: and I hope, I understand my Duty better than to deserve it. True it is, that Mr. Oates charged me with *abusing the Kings Witnesses in my Writings*. And I did say indeed, *It were well if some of them did not abuse themselves more in their manners; for that Oates himself had within a few days call'd me at least forty Rogues and Rascals, in a Coffee-House, in one quarter of an hour; whereupon; (not to make the matter worse than it was) Mr. Oates replied, so I have; and I will prove you to be a Rogue and a Rascal. And then he was at it that he would find Witnesses: to which I only observ'd that they were yet to find.*

And pray'e Note, That all this Heat was about my *Writings*; which he had at the same time declar'd in precise words that *he had never read.*

He threatn'd me indeed with a *Parliament*, but that is a Course of Speech he has got. If the Prisoners but ask a *New-comer* for his *Garnish* or *Foy*, the Master of the Prison shall be told of a *Parliament*. A Bishop shall not Suspend a Minister for refusing to *officiate* according to the *Canon*; but he is presently threatn'd with a *Parliament*. If the *University* shall not think fit to allow Mr. Oates his Degree; The *Lawn-Sleeves* are to be Ruffled *next Parliament*. I was walking a while since only cross the *Outer-Court* at *White Hall* innocently about my business, and because I did not Cap him, over the Square,

as



as the Boyes do *Fellows* in *Cambridge*; *Squire L'Estrange* (says he) *We shall have a Parliament*, twirling his Hat about, betwixt his Finger and his Thumb; with a *Look* and *Action* not to be exprest.

What can be a greater Affront now to that *Illustrious Body*, than to entitle it to the *Protection* of *insolent Reproaches* and *Wrongs*. As if *Parliaments* had nothing else to do, than to *countenance* the *Animosities*, *gratifie* the *Passions*, and *wreake* the *Revenge*s of *Private* and of *troublesom men*.

To say that I have as great a *Veneration* for the Constitution of an *English Parliament*; as any man living, is only to say the same thing over again which I have very often said heretofore. And I have made my words good by my *Practices* in the *Deference* and *Obedience* which I have ever paid to the *Authority* and *Dignity* of That *August Assembly*, whensoever *Legally Indicted* and *Conven'd*. Did I suffer above three years *Imprisonment* in *Newgate* under a Sentence of Death, from the *Late Usurpers* (that de-thron'd and depos'd his Majesty) for my *Loyalty* to my *Prince* and the *Government*? And shall I now be afraid of a *Parliament* that stands up for the King's *Preservation* and *Support*? Have I been *True* to the *Crown*, through all the *Extremities* of a *Barbarous Rebellion*, to be a *Traytor* now at last to a *Gracious* and a *Lawful Prince*? No, no; Gentlemen, to be hang'd on both sides with the *Doctors* fair Leave, is a little with the

*most.* I have not behav'd my self at a Rate to fear a *Parliament*, but rather to *wish* for't. As to all *Publick Matters*, I have made the *Law* my *Rule*, and I have made my *Duty* the *Measure* of my *Actions*; and he that keeps himself within *these Bounds*, needs no other Security against the *Justice* of a *Parliament*; especially a Person that has upon all occasions asserted the Rights of that Noble Assembly; Treating them with the stile of *Venerable Patriots* [Case put Pag. 22] even in the very case concerning his *Royal Highness*; and never receding from those Terms of *Honour* and *Respect*.

*Zek.* You have made a long Discourse here; just nothing to the purpose: for you are not Charg'd with *Abusing* the *Parliament*, but for *Disparaging* the *King's Witnesses*.

*L'Estr.* As for the *Kings Witnesses*, I have had no dealings with any of them, but with Mr. *Oates*, and none with *him* neither in any sort to reflect upon his *Evidence*. He gives it up and down, with open-mouth, that I am a *Conspirator*, and a *Papist*; and I declare on the other side, that there are not a couple of *Ran-ker Lyes* in *Hell*. *Rogue*, *Rascal*, *Villain*, and other *Scurrillities* of the *same seasoning*, are the *Lard* he makes use of in his ordinary Discourses of *L'Estrange*. And under all these Indignities I must not dare to say that I am *None* of these fine things, for fear of discrediting Mr. *Oates* by the *Contradiction*. But so long as he serves my betters with the same sauce, there's the less hurt done. Where's the Liberty of the *Subject*, if men shall be Arraign'd for their Thoughts? Where's *common Equity*, if the Testimony of a Profligate,  
Little



Little Creature, that has sworn *forward* and *backward*, and *backward* and *forward* again, in the same Cause already, shall come to weigh against almost *forty years service* of the *Crown*, without so much as one *false step*, which I affirm to be *Literally True*; and I defie the Devil himself, (let him but subscribe *Satan* to his *Information*) to disprove me in so much as a *Syllable*. What Security will there be for *Honour* or *Virtue*, when it shall become *dangerous* to be *hon*st; And that there shall need no more than such a wretch as *young Tong's* kissing of a *Book*, to work the Ruin of any man living? We have no *Curtius's* in This Age to spare; no *Devotes*, (that will run through fire and water to redeem their *Country* (more than the *Government* (I fear) has need of. This is a Case not to be imagin'd; and fitter for a *Romantick Vision*, than a *Christian Contemplation*. It might do well enough, for a Satyrical Piece of Painting, to draw the narrow *Way* beset with *Gibbets*, *Shackles* and *Halters*; and to have the *broad One* strewed with *Honours*, *Preferments*, and *Rewards*: for 'tis a *Phanſie* only for an *Embleme*, not a *History*.

And yet God forbid but *Conspiracies* and *Conspirators* should be thoroughly *sifted* and *punisht*; The *Suborners* of *false Evidence* made *exemplary*, and delivered up to the highest degree of *Ignominy* & *Scorn*; But then let the impartial Hand of *Justice* hold the *Scale*; and let *Authority*, in due course of *Law*, pronounce the *Sentence*. But for *Private Men* to obtrude themselves upon the Province of the *Magistrate*: For Men who upon a Fatality of *Principle*, are (by a certain kind of *Incantation*) enslav'd to such or such a Party;  
for

for these men (I say) to take advantages of the *Passions, Distempers, Wants and Weaknesses* of Persons in *Distress*: What may they not do with *Mean and Mercenary Souls* under such a *Pressure*? We are really come to that pass, That the *Government* it self as well as the *Servants* of it lies at the mercy of every *common Scribler, and Hedg-Printer*: and it is at their pleasure, whether we shall be *Honest Men*; or *Rascals, Traytors, Plotters, Suborners, Trepanners*; All as They please.

*Eph.* Pray do but mind now, how all this hangs together. You are censured for discrediting the *Kings Witnesses*; and you discharge your self with saying that they abuse you: and there is not one word neither to clear your self from being a *Papist*.

*L'Estr.* I have examined both my *Books* and my *Thoughts*. For the *Latter*; I am satisfied in my own *Conscience*, and that's enough for me. As to the *Former*, let but any man shew me where I have so much as implied any thing to be *False* that was *true*; where I have so much as intimated the *Doubt*, or *Discredited* the *Evidence* of any thing that was *sworn*: or where I have so much as advis'd a *Caution* in the point of believing but to the *advantage* of the *Kings Evidences* upon the *true and real Plot*: and I'll be his *Bond-Slave*. Now the Sum of all my words and meaning, is wrapt up in This: *Distinguish betwixt Streit-Reports and Sworn-Evidences*; do not bring a *Disparagement* upon the *Truth*, by being over-easie to believe *Fables*: for nothing more supports the credit  
of



of any Cause, than the casting of all *Trasb* and *Trumpery* out of it.

To the *Scandal* of *Popery*; I am not ignorant how Liberal diverse People are of their Censures in this Case; who by the Ties of Nature, Honour and Good Manners, ought to be more tender and careful of what they say: And some among the rest, that stab me with this Poyson'd Dagger in their very Arms; for I can scarce pass them without an Embrace. If what I have said and prov'd already upon this Subject, will not satisfy the World, nothing will: But however, it is only so much pains lost, to attempt it once more.

In my *Reformed Catholique*, pag. 3. “[The  
 “ Author (say I) is no *Disguised* or *Concealed*  
 “ *Papist*, but of the Communion of the Church  
 “ of England, Trained up in the strictest way  
 “ of it, and standing firm to it against all sorts  
 “ of *Provocation*, *Discouragement*, *Temptation* and  
 “ *Argument*; and without warping to the *Jesu-*  
 “ *its*, either on the *Right Hand*, or on the  
 “ Left.

In my *Discovery upon Discovery*, Pag. 9. I expound the Passage above recited, in these Words,

“ I had

‘I had the Honour, in the Late Times,  
 “ (and being then an *Exile*) to pass a matter of  
 “ Eight Months in the House of the Cardinal  
 “ of *Hesse*; where I was as kindly received  
 “ as if I had been at my own Father’s: I  
 “ wanted neither Invitations nor Arguments  
 “ to carry me over to the Church of *Rome*;  
 “ beside the private Temptation of a *Hopeless*  
 “ *Interest* (as to the King) and a *Broken Fortune*.  
 “ Now if I had been so easily disposed to Truck  
 “ my *Religion* for *Money* (as the whole *Litter*  
 “ of the *Town-Scriblers* will have it) I do assure  
 “ you Dr. I could then have made my Mar-  
 “ ket.

And then in my Letter to Dr. Oates, p. 21.  
 thus ;

“ Now to discharge my Soul to you, Dr.  
 “ as in *Confession*; I am (by my Hopes of Hea-  
 “ ven) a True Son of the Church of *Eng-*  
 “ land.

Some there are, that will have me a Papist of  
*Fifteen Years Standing*; others, only of *Six Months*;  
 But a *Papist* I am to be, in despite of my Hearts-  
 Blood. The *Coffee House-Doctors* have, in fine, pro-  
 nounc’d me a *Papist*; but *where*, and *how often*, and  
*how many Witnesses* to prove me at *Mass*, they are  
 not



not yet agreed upon. The Scene is said to be laid in *Somerſet-Houſe*, *Wyld-Houſe*, and three or four other obſcure Places. The *High-Fliers* will not abate a ſingle *Ave-Mary* of *Forty Maſſes*; but the more *Moderate* reckon upon *Nine*, precise; within a *Dominus Tecum*, which looks like Five Pound wanting a Penny, in a *Tavern-Bill*. With the ſame Conſcience they might have made it Even Money as well, if they had ſo pleas'd. There's ſome body has made mention of *Prance*, as the Perſon to produce the Witneſſes; but I'll not believe it. I could ſilence all theſe Calumnies, by telling you, that I have ſatisfi'd the Law in Receiving of the *Sacrament*, and taking the *Teſts*; but I'll go further with you.

By my Hopes of a Future State, I am in my Heart and Judgment, a True Son of the Church of *England*, according to the Nine and Thirty Articles: And if I was ever preſent at the Celebration of any Maſs ſince His Maſties Return; or if (to the beſt Recollection I can make of Things paſt) I have ever ſo much as ſet my Foot into a *Romiſh Chappel*, ſince His Maſties Return, I wiſh I may never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

*Zek.* This is a bold Puſh; but all this Swearing and Staring will not bring you off yet for your *Writings*.

E

*L'Eſr.*

*L'Estr.* As to my *Writings*, they are at this Instant under the *Anatomy* ; and I know most of the very Persons that are Commissioned to Read upon the Dissection. I look upon my self to be under the Protection of the Law ; and I do positively say , that without a most *Unnatural Violence*, both upon the *Scope* and *Wording* of them, I am secure.

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FINIS.

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